

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Oct 22- 26, 2012
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What are Wing's Symbols?

- a) Symbols used by Deaf pilots to designate to airport towers that a deaf pilot is flying an airplane
- b) Symbols used in speech teaching methods that indicate the placement of the tongue in the mouth
- c) Symbols used for written language instruction of deaf students that indicated grammatical parts of speech in sentences
- d) Symbols used on audiograms that show precisely the part of the inner ear where hearing loss is occurring

Answer “c” – Wing's symbols were developed by George Wing a teacher at the Minnesota Institute for the Deaf from 1872-1885. These symbols were used in the instruction of English grammar and writing. The symbols showed deaf students the functions of various parts of a sentence. They were used at the school for the deaf in Minnesota up to 1976.

See a picture of George Wing here:

<http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16022coll16/id/7/rec/107>

If you would like to see what these symbols looked like read this article from Proceedings of the 16th Convention of the American Instructors of the Deaf of 1901 which took place at St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, NY.

http://books.google.com/books?id=ADPNAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA61&lpg=PA61&dq=wing+symbols+deaf&source=bl&ots=PzXw_ZYCsl&sig=2Uj4VULwhHSabwr3SNbskDr26v4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=P2dwUJuQFsW7iwLovYHQDg&sqi=2&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=wing%20symbols%20deaf&f=false

Note that

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